

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-14 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 8, and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, Applicant amends claim 4 to further clarify the features set forth therein and claim 11 for improved conformity with the US practice. Accordingly, claims 4-6 and 11-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner withdrew the previous grounds of rejection. The Examiner, however, found new grounds for rejecting the claims. Specifically, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-14 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,465,463 to Yoshihara et al. (hereinafter "Yoshihara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,143 to Munakata et al. (hereinafter "Munakata"). Applicant respectfully notes that claims 1, 8, and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering these grounds of rejection moot.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara and Munakata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,626 to Okada (hereinafter "Okada"). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Independent claim 4 *inter alia* recites: "when printing at least a first original image and a second original image on a single medium, by laying out said first original image on a first print

region of the single medium and said second original image on a second print region of said single medium, said printer unit starts printing, on said single medium, said first original image after the reading operation of said first original image regardless of whether the reading operation of said second original image has finished,... if said printing apparatus determines that a third print region on the single medium corresponding to a scan movement which to be performed thereafter includes a part of said first print region corresponding to said first original image which has been read and a part of said second print region corresponding to said second original image which has not yet been read, then said printer unit puts the scan movement on hold."

The Examiner contends that Yoshihara discloses the features of claim 4 except for the printing of said first original image before the reading operation of said second original image has finished. The Examiner, however, alleges that Munakata cures this deficiency. The Examiner further acknowledges that Yoshihara and Munakata do not disclose or suggest putting the scan movement on hold. The Examiner, however, alleges that Okada cures this deficiency (see pages 9-10 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record disclose or suggest the printing apparatus making the determinations set forth in claim 4.

Yoshihara discloses reading and outputting images. Yoshihara, however, does not disclose or suggest the printing apparatus determining if the condition of a third print region on the single medium corresponding to a scan movement which is to be performed thereafter includes a part of said first print region and a part of said second print region is met.

Munakata does not cure this deficiency. In Munakata, the second specified image area is read, and a distance d_2 of the second specified image area is previously calculated. Then, after

the end of the downstream side of the CCD sensor 19 is returned to a position corresponding to the position of the distance d2 from the leading edge of the second specified image area, scanning is started. On the other hand, in the image formation unit, with the printing medium 9 at the same position as the above, printing is performed using only the upstream side of ink ejection ports corresponding to the distance d2. Thereafter, if coordinates of the read image on the original 10 are known and print coordinates of the image on the printing medium 9 are known, an image can be formed by repeating the same procedures (col. 12, line 56 to col. 13, line 3).

As a result, Munakata does not disclose or suggest determining if the condition of whether printing of said first original image has started before the reading operation of said second original image has finished is met. Munakata does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Yoshihara.

Similarly, Okada does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Yoshihara and Munakata. Even assuming *arguendo* Okada discloses placing the scan movement on hold, it fails to disclose the conditions for placing the scan movement on hold. Okada does not disclose or suggest that the scan movement is placed on hold if the printing apparatus determines that the printing of said first original image has started before the reading operation of said second original image has finished and when the third print region on the single medium corresponding to the scan movement which is to be performed thereafter includes the part of said first print region and the part of said second print region. Although it may be known to place scan movement on hold, the conditions for such placement vary widely. In Okada, there is no disclosure or suggestion to place the scan movement on hold when the conditions set forth in

claim 4 are met. Accordingly, Okada does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Munakata and Okada.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner did not provide a reason to apply the conditions allegedly disclosed in Yoshihara and Munakata to the scan movement of Okada. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have and could not have come up with the features of claim 4 from the combination of Yoshihara, Munakata, and Okada. The references do not disclose or even remotely suggest conditions for placing the scan movement on hold.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 4 is patentable over Yoshihara in view of Munakata and Okada. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claim 4 and its dependent claim 5.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara, Munakata, and Okada in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,872,035 to Miyake et al. (hereinafter "Miyake"). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections for at least the following exemplary reasons.

Claim 6 depends on claim 4. Applicant has already demonstrated that Yoshihara in view of Munakata and Okada do not meet all the requirements of independent claim 4. Miyake does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Yoshihara, Munakata, and Okada. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim 4. Since claim 6 depends on claim 4, it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Japanese Publication No. 2002-247382 to Fujii (hereinafter "Fujii").

Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection for at least the following exemplary reasons.

Independent claim 11 recites “wherein, when printing at least a first original image and a second original image on a single medium, by laying out said first original image on a first print region of a single medium, and laying out said second original image on a second print region of said single medium, said printer unit prints the first original image in a print mode according to a first reading instruction of said first original image, and prints the second original image in a print mode according to a second reading instruction of said second original image.” In an exemplary embodiment, the first original image and the second original image are printed on a single medium in different modes.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yoshihara in view of Fujii do not disclose or suggest printing on a single medium in different modes. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the references in the manner suggest by the Examiner.

In an ordinary printing where the medium and the image that has been read are in one-to-one relationship, it may be obvious to instruct the print mode with respect to each reading operation of the original image and to print each of the images in a different print mode. However, in N-up printing, it is not obvious to print different images in different modes on the same single medium because in the prior art, the print mode is governed by the medium.

That is, Fujii discloses a user setting a printing mode. Fujii further discloses a printing means which can perform a printing job by a monochrome mode suitable for generation of a monochrome printing, and a printing job by color mode for generating a color printing (¶¶ 4 and 6). However, there is no disclosure or even remote suggestion that the medium and the image

that has been read are not in one-to-one correspondence. In other words, Fujii discloses a print mode for a medium and not more than one print mode for same single medium. In short, Fujii does not disclose or suggest print mode is instructed with respect to each reading operation such that different print modes result on the same medium. As such, Fujii does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Yoshihara.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yoshihara in view of Fujii do not disclose or suggest at least these unique features of claim 11. That is, the prior art of record do not disclose or suggest printing different images in different modes on the same single medium. Accordingly, claim 11 is patentable over Yoshihara in view of Fujii. Claim 12 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 11.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara and Fujii and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,161 to Fresk et al. (hereinafter "Fresk"). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections for at least the following exemplary reasons.

Claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 11. Applicant has already demonstrated that Yoshihara in view of Fujii do not meet all the requirements of independent claim 11. Fresk does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Yoshihara in view of Fujii. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim 11. Since claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 11, they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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